

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 8, 2019

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Partial Government Shutdown

Dear Senators Rubio and Scott:

As members of the Florida delegation in the House of Representatives, we urge you to support House-passed legislation to reopen the government. The partial government shutdown that began on December 22 is tremendously harmful and unfair to federal workers, who are dedicated public servants, and to the American people, who rely on the Federal government for so many aspects of their daily lives.

On Thursday, January 3, the House overwhelmingly passed legislation that would end the government shutdown and allow negotiators more time to come to a deal on border security. Just last year, similar legislation received strong bipartisan support in the Senate. It is our responsibility as representatives of the people to work together toward the common goal of re-opening the federal government.

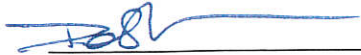
The consequences of the shutdown are wide-reaching and increasing each day, and Florida is among the states most affected. Over 13,000 Floridians are either furloughed or are required to work without pay during the shutdown. Each day that the shutdown continues, more and more federal workers and their families are struggling to pay for basic necessities, like rent, medical bills, and childcare.

Furthermore, with each passing day of the shutdown, Floridians are having more difficulty accessing services normally provided by the Federal government. Businesses are already suffering the consequences: the Small Business Administration is no longer helping small businesses in obtaining federally-assisted loans, and the Department of Homeland Security is no longer granting access to the E-Verify program, which is essential for businesses to comply with federal employment law. National Parks, including Everglades National Park, are not being properly maintained, as trash is removed and restrooms are cleaned only when benevolent volunteers do what they can to help. The Environmental Protection Agency has also stopped inspecting drinking water systems, hazardous waste management facilities, and chemical facilities, putting the health and safety of Americans in jeopardy.

If the shutdown continues, the consequences can become much more dire. Families will be at-risk of losing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, federal courts will have to delay hearing many cases, and tax returns may not be processed, leading to delays in tax refunds that so many Americans rely on.

As representatives of Florida in Congress, we must do what is in our state's best interest. We must ensure that our federal employees are paid and our residents receive important federal services. The people are counting on us. We hope you will support the House passed funding bills and encourage Senate leadership to put it to a vote in your chamber today.

Sincerely,



DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL
Member of Congress



FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress



ALCEE HASTINGS
Member of Congress



KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress



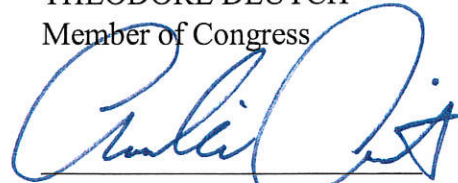
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress



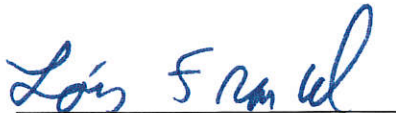
THEODORE DEUTCH
Member of Congress



STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress



CHARLIE CRIST
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress



DONNA SHALALA
Member of Congress